UAW Local 72 Collection / Kenosha County Historical Society

FIGHTING TIMES

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ORGANIZE THE RANK & FILE DUMP DAUM

Remember back in the days of Richard Nixon, nobody liked the President and the anger of the people finally threw him out of office. If our own Candygate scandal a few months ago was any kind of preview, Ralph Daum's days are numbered.

For the past few years Daum has run Local 72 like his own private kingdom. Ralph Daum put the D in Dictatorship. At the membership meetings he has been the supreme authority on every question, never allowing the rank and file members to make a decision. And when things don't go his way he pulls the plug and walks off the stage, like at the last contract ratification meeting. After the people voted against his Dental clinic he brought it back the next month and trampled on the by-laws to ram it through.

Daum has squandered thousands and thousands of dollars of our hard-earned dues. By handing our rights to AMC on a silver platter Daum has been turning a once strong Local 72 into more of a joke than a

TURN TO DAUM ON PAGE 2

VICTORY TO THE MINERS !

(SEE CENTERFOLD)

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. ATTEND THE LOCAL 72 MEETING SATURDAY AND SUPPORT A MOTION FOR A DONATION FOR THE MINERS.
2. MARCH WITH STEELWORKERS IN GARY, INDIANA SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN SUPPORT OF THE MINERS AND AGAINST FEDERAL INTERVENTION. IF YOU WANT TO GO CONTACT US OR SEE US AT THE UNION MEETING, WE WILL BE LEAVING FOR GARY AFTER THE MEETING.

THANKS FOR THE $$

Not too long ago we received an anonymous contribution of $10 in the mail. This helps out with the printing costs. The way we pay for the newsletter is with money people in the shop throw in. Contributions can be sent to FIGHTING TIMES P.O.BOX 1571 RACINE, WISCONSIN

DAUM FROM PAGE 1

threat to the company.

It would be nice if just electing some new faces would be the solution to all our problems. But let's face it, Daum was elected 12 years ago because he represented change. We need and should elect good leaders. But look back a few years to the '60s when our union had some guts. The power AMC feared was the people sticking together, backed up by their leaders. Even now with sales down, are hard times an excuse to cave in to the company on every issue from wages to benefits to working conditions? The miners are a good example of what working people can do. They have stood up to the bosses, the government and a sellout union president. Let's use this election to get ourselves organized, Dump Daum and get some decent leaders elected.

PEUGEOT - AMERICAN?

Remember the bumperstickers "BUY A FOREIGN CAR AND PUT 10 AMERICANS OUT OF WORK"? AMC was so patriotic the only decent parking places went to Ramblers. Everything else was considered a "foreign"car. One of the biggest horror stories to hit Kenosha was the unloading of VW Rabbits at the Port.

Now, all of a sudden with rumors of a foreign merger, the company's version of Yankee Doodle Dandy has changed. Maybe now AMC will put out a new red, white and blue bumper sticker--"BUY A FOREIGN CAR MADE IN KENOSHA AND PUT 10 AMERICANS BACK TO WORK!"

It just shows what a bunch of b.s. all their "Buy America" propaganda is. French workers or American workers, we're nothing but a profit or loss figure to the big corporations. Neither AMC nor Pugeot have any loyalty to anything but the almighty dollar.

THE BETSY

After all the excitement when they filmed part of "The Betsy" at the plant you might have thought the picture was about life on the assembly line. Instead, the movie showed the 1% who live off the profits made off auto assembly lines.

Just imagine people so rich they give $25 million wedding presents and live in mansions with marble staircases and party in Hawaii for the weekend. Now you know where our sweat goes--to keep the jet set happy!

The Betsy did a good job of portraying life on the other side of the tracks. The only concern of the Hardemans was for number one. The Grandfather was sleeping with his daughter-in-law; his son was making it with a gay personnel manager; and the grandson was doing it with everyone but his wife. What a life the rich lead!

Finally they show us workers who make it all possible. After waiting and waiting to see the scene of AMC you'd better not blink. In 30 seconds you see 838, 837, 836, 842, and 827. And then in living color--a foreman in 38 working on the line. By now millions and millions have seen him! That should be enough for the union to clinch a foreman working grievance.

Thank you Harold Robbins. Next September at contract time when AMC cries poverty once again, us have-nots will remember the life of luxury you showed us so well in The Betsy.

WORKER KILLED

"The main thing is the company just didn't care enough." That was the comment Fighting Times got from a worker at Young Radiator concerning the the death of a co-worker. Eric Carls, 25 years old, was killed when 2 tons of steel slipped off a truck used to move it in the shop and crushed him.

This was not the first time an accident of this type happened at Young. In fact the company had welded extra support arms on 2 out of the 3 trucks they had to prevent this type of accident. For some reason they didn't care enough to get this third truck fixed. Young Radiator and the system they are a part of have killed another worker.

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MINERS VOTE NO---GOVT. HANDS OFF!

The miners did it! They did what a lot of working would like to do. They voted down a sell-out and told the coal bosses just where to stick it.

Now that their 12 week strike is bringing the bosses to their knees, the coal operators and the government are crying the strike is hurting the "public" and endangering "national security" They say the layoffs and power cutbacks are the fault of the miners. They are calling on us working people to side with the rich against our fellow workers, the miners. But who is responsible for the current crisis? Who bragged they had enough coal reserves to starve into accepting a sellout. Who is refusing to give in to the miners just demands?

The contract the miners voted down had more takeaways than benefits and less rights that the 74 contract.

1 RIGHT TO STRIKE: Anyone leading a wildcat or setting up a picket line at another mine can be fired or fined $20 a day. on top of that, anyone who honors a picket line will be charged with an unexcused absence, and 2 or more in a month means you can be fired. Wildcats over health and safety and grievances are often a life and death question in the mines. The right to strike is a must.

2. PENSIONS: Pensions are not equalized. Miners who retired befor '74 receive $275 a month. Those who retired after '74 get $550. The vast majority of miners on pension retired before '74.

3. MEDICAL: Deductible clauses were added in the proposed contract which would have amounted to an average expense of $500 more a year per miner. In addition widows of miners killed in the mines would now be limited to one month of benefits instead of the 5 years it was before.

The miners have made it clear that their fight is not over just wages but the right to stand up as men and women not slaves to the coal companies.

Working people nationwide are standing with the miners. Striking farmers are sending a truck caravan of produce to the coalfields. A rally of 1,000 steelworkers was held at the Sparrows Point shipyard in Baltimore in support of the miners. A UAW local in Linden N.J. donated $5000 to the miners. The UAW sponsored a car caravan from Detroit to the coalfields loaded with food and clothes the weekend of Feb. 25.

Locally collections and financial support resolutions have come from union members at Masterlock and Singer in milwaukee and Racine Steel Castings.

A mass march in support of the miners is being called in Washington DC for this weekend by the National UWO and others. And a march from the US Dept of Labor in Gary to the US Steel Gary Works in support of the miners is being called for this weekend.

If the miners are going to continue their fight more support is needed. Now with the Taft-Hartley law being invoked their food stamps will be cut off. The miners are an inspiration to all of us. In the face of company guns, state police, a sellout union president and a wave of propaganda against them they have stood strong. Support the miners.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL.

"HEY, I'M THE LEADER!"

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ENGINEERING VS THE WATER DRIP

That world famous quiet ride engineered into the Concord DL-that very same Engineering Dept. has met its match. Now remember, a water leak is nothing simple to solve. After a few valiant but unsuccessful experiments to stop the dripping from the men's bathroom high above 838--a highly sophisticated plan was hit on. Hang a bucket from a pipe 25 feet in the air. What happens when the bucket fills up? Another match for engineering.

Or take the use of 15 feet of plastic hung in the air to catch the drips and let them collect in the corner. No matter that if you look up you see a little yellow pool, growing slightly larger day by day.

But by far the pinnacle of engineering's career was the 2 x 4, fully waterproofed with a coat of tar, that's supposed to stop the water from overflowing on the steps going down from the timeclock behind 837.

Needless to say, one day a couple of weeks ago 3 people slipped on the puddle, on those stairs. The union went to the department head, but according to him no quick dry was available.

At 3:30 people headed down the stairs going home. All of a sudden a woman slipped. As she fell back she broke her ankle. Lying on the ground waiting for an ambulance was the Division Head's wife. This time the company sidestepped engineering and managed to find some quickdry.

SNOW JOB

Just a couple of weeks ago one morning the snow was really coming down. People started asking the supervisors if we were going home at noon. But no answer.

The snow kept getting worse and a lot of people started deciding--"The hell with it, let's stand up for ourselves and go home. Who cares what the company says."

At 12 noon 58 people left 838. In a last minute attempt to look tough, groups of foremen were standing by the doors. One week the company lays us all off because the economy is bad. But 2 weeks earlier they want to play slavemaster so they try to keep us working in a blizzard. WE DON'T LIVE TO WORK, WE WORK TO LIVE!

Now the company is trying to intimidate the 58 people who left by giving them all w.o.p.s on their timecard. But at the 838 dept. meeting it was decided that the company shouldn't be allowed to get over with their petty disciplines. The chief steward is filing a group grievance for all 58 people demanding that the company drop the w.o.p.'s.

LETTERS

WE INVITE ANY LETTERS THAT PEOPLE WANT TO SEND IN ABOUT CONDITIONS IN THE SHOP OR THE STATE OF OUR UNION. ALL NAMES WILL BE WITHHELD UNLESS OTHERWISE REQUESTED.

FIGHTING TIMES PO BOX 1571 RACINE

HERE ARE 2 LETTERS FROM LOCAL 72 MEMBERS.

FELLOW UNION MEMBERS:

About the only decent thing we got out of the last contract was the bid system. Under the old upgrade system, company and union favoritism was the only way to get ahead.

Now you've got a better chance, but there are two big problems with the bid system.
1.) A lot of good jobs still change hands without ever appearing on the bid boards. This is really serious when the job in question is a higher paid category and by rights should go to the high seniority employee.
2.) Once an employee successfully bids on a job it may be weeks or even months before he's moved. This is ridiculous and defeats the whole purpose.

It's about time the union does something to make the company live up to the bid system.

An open letter to Ray Majerus

Brother (?) Majerus

We read the four pages of doubletalk you sent us and it all boils down to this:

The International Union continues with Doug Fraser, as it did with Reuther and Woodcock to COVER UP ANY AND ALL WRONGDOING IN LOCAL 72.

There are countless documented instances of:
1. Major financial malpractice.
2. Total breakdown of democratic practices
3. Massive failure to properly administer the labor agreement

The clown responsible for this mess should be removed from office and exposed to the membership so they will never again be allowed to impersonate Union Representatives.

But you want to "heal" (cover up).

It may serve the best interest of the International Union to Heal-Cover Up so these clowns can get re-elected. But the rank and file of Local 72 would best be served by the TRUTH which would assist in electing an Executive Board that you could not blackmail in the next negotiations.

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SYLVESTER CHALLENGES DAUM

More people than usually show up for a membership meeting were on hand for a recent caucus meeting called by Recording Secretary Gene Sylvester to launch his campaign to unseat Ralph Daum. A couple hundred people who want a change showed up to hear what Sylvester had to say.

A lot of people in the shop want to vote against Daum. What is needed is a real change not just a different face. Sylvester hit on what a lot of people feel when he said all 15 Board members are responsible. He went on to say that he is running because he feels responsible to Local 72 and he could not sit by and let Daum get reelected.

The program Sylvester put out began to touch on some of the things we need. Like--- maintaining the steward ratio, improvements in pension and a bigger role for retirees in the Local and more democracy in the union. We need these things and more. But above all we need a united and fighting union, not a begging one.

Sylvester's campaign and the movement to dump Daum is an opportunity for the people to get organized to fight back against AMC.

Once again in September we'll be facing another contract. Once again AMC will be crying the same blues. Last year 1100 people voted against the sellout we got from Daum and the International. Any candidate who claims to stand for the people should make a commitment not to let AMC's hard times blues get them off the hook at contract time and every day in the shop. We need to put up a fight against the lousy working conditions that lead to daily job overloads and eliminations. We also need to start catching up to the Big 3 on wages, SUB funding, and pensions.

Sylvester is planning to have more caucus meetings at taverns around the shop. These can be a chance to push him or any candidate into taking a stand.

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